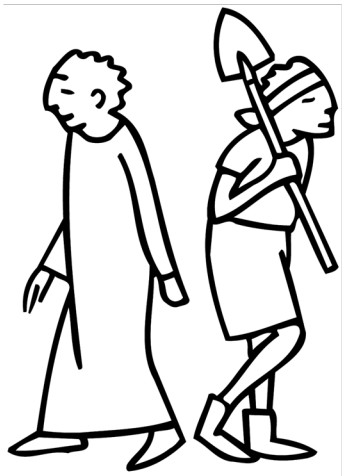
CHRIST TRINITY
AN EPISCOPAL- LUTHERAN WORSHIPING COMMUNITY

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

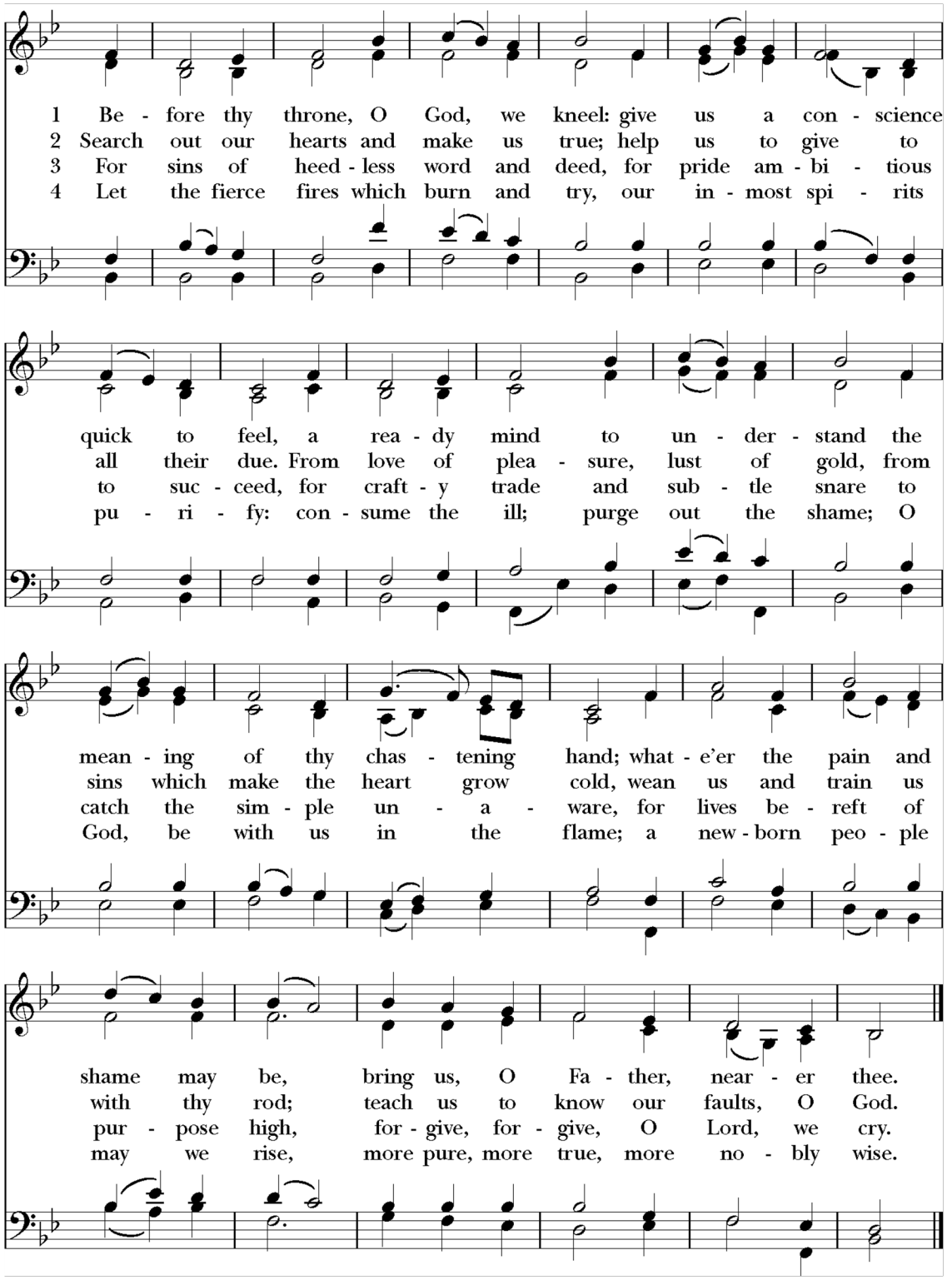
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

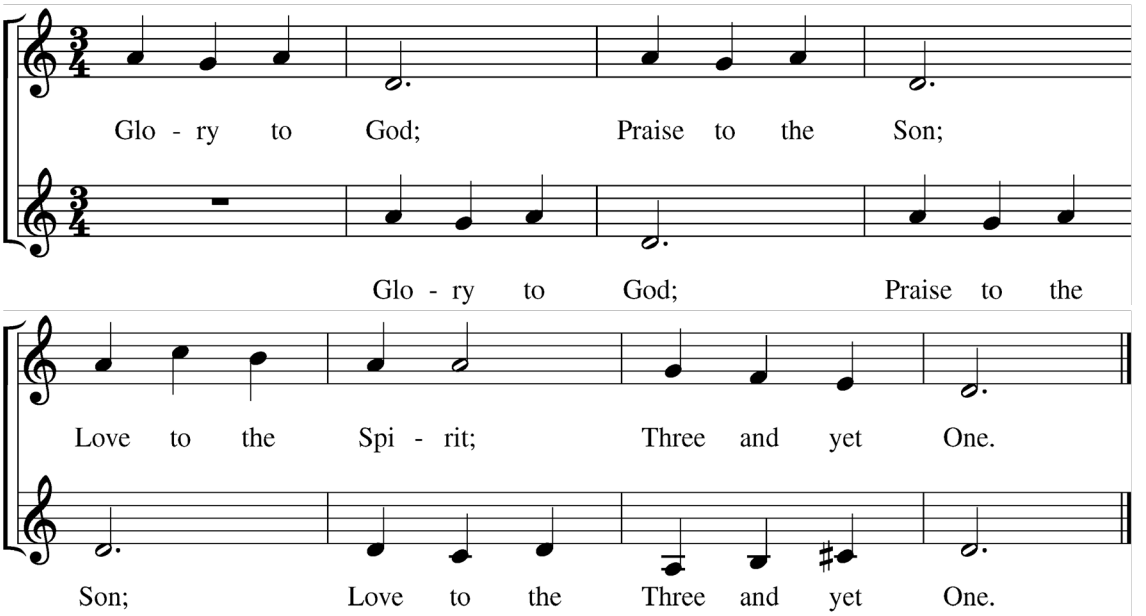
PROCESSIONAL **Before Thy throne O God We kneel** H574


1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science
2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to
3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious
4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits
quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the
all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from
to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to
pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O
mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and
sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us
catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of
God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple
shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.
with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.
pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.
may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

GREETING

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

GLORIA WLP821



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray together: **God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel.

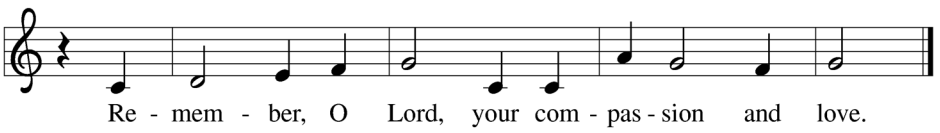
[1] The word of the Lord came to me: [2] What do you mean by repeating this
proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on edge"? [3] As I live, says the Lord God, this
proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. [4] Know that all lives are mine;
the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the
person who sins who shall die.

[25] Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of
Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? [26] When the
righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall
die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. [27] Again,
when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do
what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. [28] Because they considered
and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they
shall surely live; they shall not die. [29] Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of
the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways
that are unfair?

[30] Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your
ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions;
otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. [31] Cast away from you all the
transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new
heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? [32] For I have no
pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm: 25: 1-9



[1] To | you, O Lord,
I lift | up my soul.
[2] **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
[3] Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
[4] **Show me your | ways, O Lord,**
and teach | me your paths. R
[5] Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
[6] **Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,**
for they are from | everlasting.
[7] Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.
[8] **You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;**
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
[9] You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

Philippians 2: 1-13

A reading from Philippians

[1] If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, [2] make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. [5] Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

[6] who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, [8]

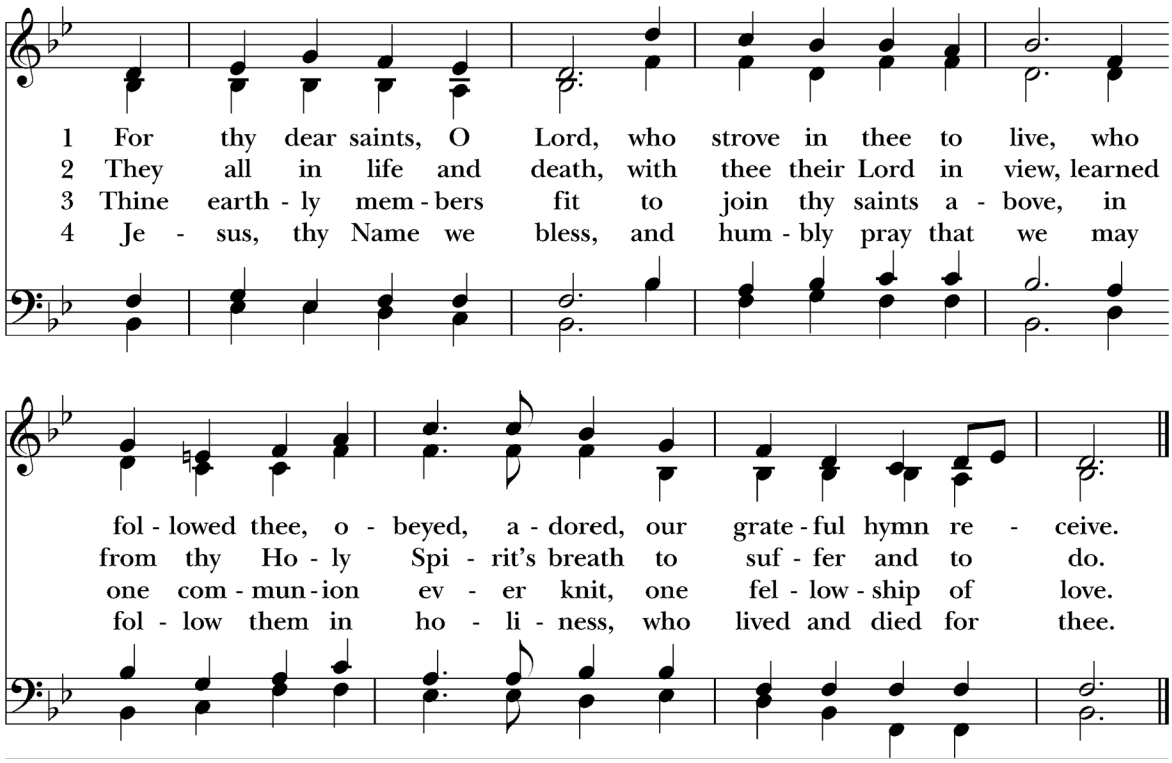
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death
on a cross. [9] Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the
name that is above every other name, [10] so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and
every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the
Father.

[12] Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in
my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation
with fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you
both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **For thy dear saints, O Lord** H279

v1 before; v2 after



GOSPEL READING Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Christ

[23] When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the
people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you
doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" [24] Jesus said to them,
"I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also
tell you by what authority I do these things. [25] Did the baptism of John come
from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one
another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not
believe him?' [26] But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd,
for all regard John as a prophet." [27] So they answered Jesus, "We do not
know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am
doing these things.

[28] "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and
said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' [29] He answered, 'I will not,'
but later he changed his mind and went. [30] The father went to the second
and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. [31] Which
of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to
them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into
the kingdom of God ahead of you. [32] For John came to you in the way of
righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the
prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your
minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE response: ***Your mercy is great***

PEACE

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERING

ANTHEM **Nobody Knows - Let the Heaven's Light Shine** Roland Carter

OFFERING PRAYER

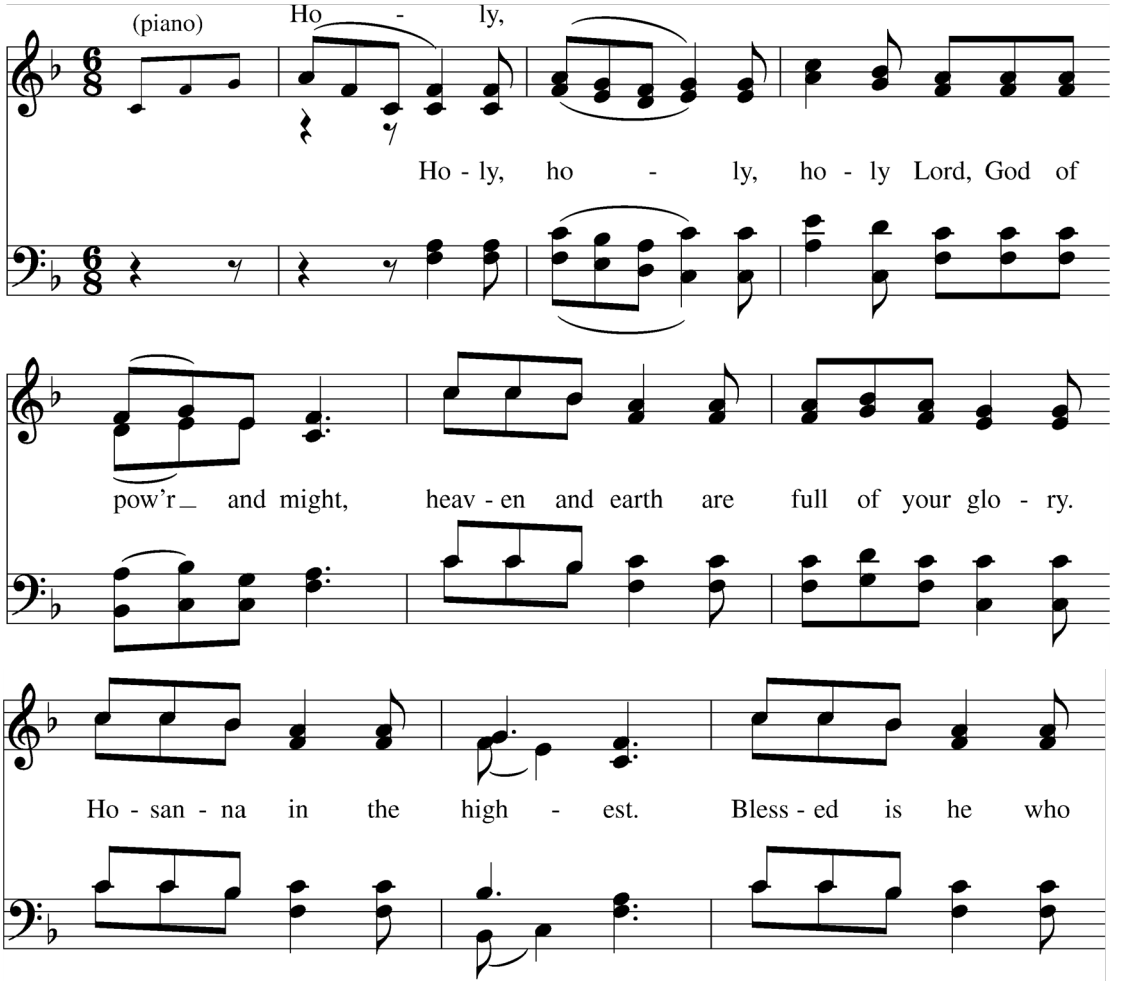
Let us pray together: **God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

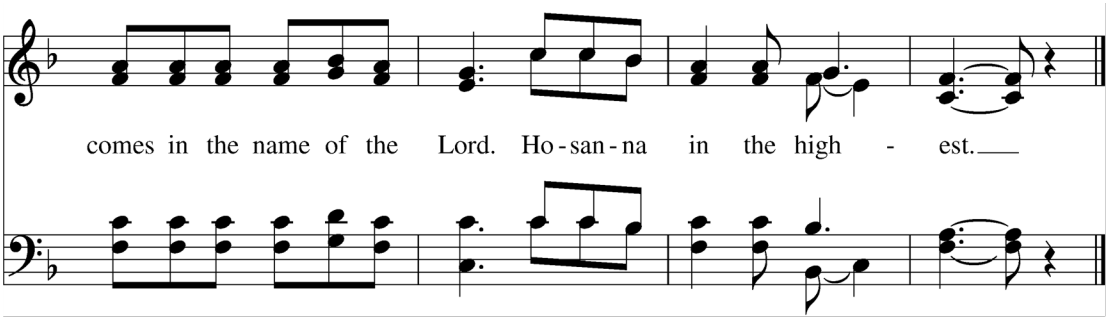
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

SANCTUS





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

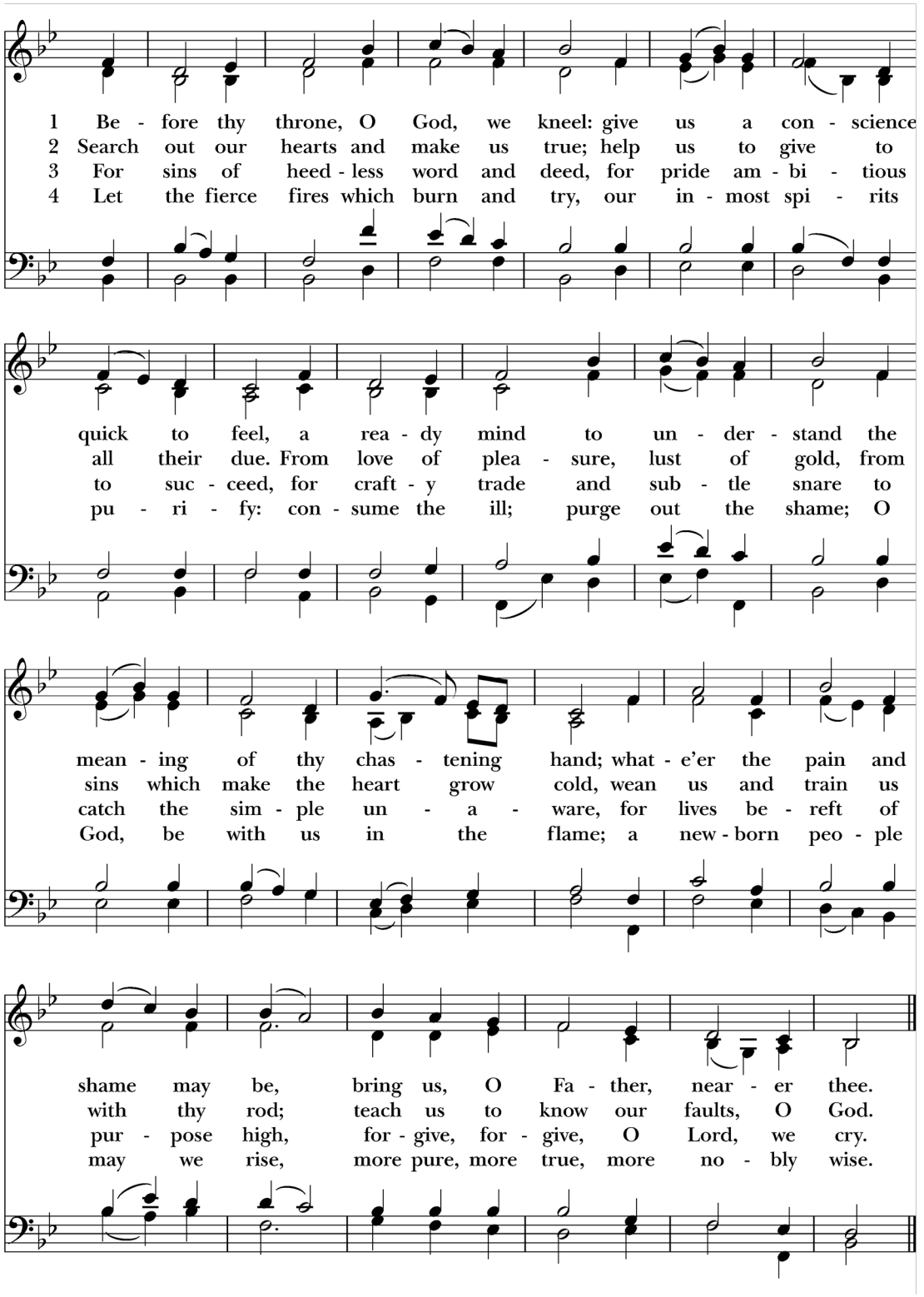
BLESSING

SENDING HYMN **Before Thy Throne O God We kneel** H575

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE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pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O
God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple
may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crop Walk is TODAY at 1 pm in Salisbury

We will officially receive new members on October 4. If you would like to be confirmed or officially welcomed into the Episcopal Church denomination, Bp. Howell will be here on October 18.
Let Pastor Erik know if you are interested.

A Stewardship Leader is still needed for the one element of our Stewardship Campaign.

Silent Movie Night Coordinator needed. Our post-Thanksgiving Silent Movie Night is moving to the Triplex. We are in search of someone to lead this project.

Today's flowers are given by Liz and John Wells in recognition of

Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

National Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, is observed annually on the last Sunday in September. It was created to recognize and honor those that have lost their son or daughter while serving our country in the United States Armed Forces. A gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving the United States Armed Forces.